

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing, starting from a vulcanizable elastomer material, a covering that has an appearance substantially free from phenomena of directionality, the process comprising the operations of:

feeding an extruder with strips of vulcanizable elastomer material of different colors, subjecting said material to extrusion by causing it to pass through a drawplate provided with openings;

subjecting the material obtained by means of drawing to shredding so as to obtain, as a result of the action of shredding, a granular material;

subjecting said granular material to mixing until it is rendered substantially chromatically homogeneous;

feeding said granular material rendered chromatically homogeneous by mixing to a calender, by direct feeding by gravity of the chromatically homogeneous granular material into the-a gap between the rollers of the calender so as to obtain, as a result of calendering, a strip of vulcanizable elastomer material; and

subjecting said strip of vulcanizable elastomer material in the form of a strip to vulcanization.

2. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, further comprising the operation of subjecting to storage said granular material before or after said mixing.

3. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the drawplate has openings having a crescent-shaped conformation.

4. (Original) The process according to claim 3 wherein said openings have a maximum transverse dimension of between 1 mm and 5 mm.

5. (Original) The process according to claim 3 wherein said openings have a maximum transverse dimension of 2.5 mm.

6. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 3 wherein said openings have a length in ~~the-a~~ region of 10-15 mm.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 3 wherein said crescent-shaped openings are arranged in pairs of openings facing one another with ~~the-a~~ concavity set opposed, *i.e.*, according to a general configuration ().

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7 wherein said pairs of openings are distributed according to a regular array on ~~the-a~~ development of the drawplate.

9. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the operation of~~ enabling said granular material to reach, before or after said mixing operation, room temperature.

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~Claim-claim~~ 1, further comprising ~~the operation of~~ enabling an at least partial mixing of the colors of said strips of vulcanizable elastomer material fed to the extruder.

11. (Original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the rollers of said calender are kept at a temperature of substantially between 30°C and 40°C.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein ~~the-a~~ speed of rotation of the rollers of the calender and ~~the-a~~ rate of feed by gravity of the granular

material onto the rollers are regulated jointly so as to maintain a constant level of granular material waiting to be calendered.

13. (Withdrawn) An intermediate product of the process according to claim 1 wherein said intermediate product is constituted by said granular material that has been rendered substantially homogeneous.